

Milwaukee County Board Chairman
County Supervisor, 1st District

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Contact: Bill Zaferos, Public Information Manager
414/278-4230 or William.zaferos@milwaukeecountywi.gov

FINANCE COMMITTEE WRAPS UP BEFORE PUBLIC HEARING
Public Hearing to Get Feedback on the Budget to be Held November 2 at Mitchell Park Domes

The County Board Committee on Finance, Personnel and Audit today provided increased funding for the Office of the County Executive above the prior year's tax levy for the department and maintained all of his current staff positions. The Committee adopted an amendment that empowers the next County Board to make some funding decisions about the Office of the County Executive in consultation with the individual elected to serve as County Executive for the next term beginning in 2016.

The Committee also adopted an amendment to allow expanded transit service with faster service to suburban job hubs via the new 80X Service. The 80X service is outlined in a Public Policy Forum 2013 report, "Getting to Work: Opportunities and Obstacles to Improving Transit Service to Suburban Milwaukee Job Hubs." In the report, the Forum presents options for providing a service that would better connect job seekers to employers along a corridor from Port Washington Road in Ozaukee County and northern Milwaukee County, and along Howell Avenue in southern Milwaukee County.

In addition, the Committee increased funding for the Parks Amenities Matching Fund to \$500,000. The fund is designed to leverage external funding sources partnerships, sponsorships and grants for various parks projects. The Committee also added \$20,000 for additional seasonal Park Ranger positions and \$200,000 for design and reconstruction of basketball courts at Wahl Park.

Earlier, the Committee restored \$4 million of public safety funding cut by the County Executive, and rolled back the County Executive's reliance on reserves to balance the budget. Nearly all of the net tax levy increase is a result of the restoration of public safety funding that had been cut by the County Executive.

"The legislative body is the branch closest to the people, and the County Board invites the community to the table and welcomes their public comments," said Milwaukee County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will host a public hearing on Monday, November 2nd, on the 2016 Recommended Budget and the amendments adopted by the Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit throughout the month of October.

The Board's public hearing on the budget begins at 6:30 pm and will be held at the Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. The hearing at the Domes is in addition to the public hearing and meetings already held by the Finance Committee during their deliberations on the annual budget.

The Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit will meet again on Wednesday, November 4th to consider any budget amendments resulting from the Board's public hearing. The County Board is scheduled to adopt the budget for next year at its Monday, November 9th meeting, which begins at 8:30 am.

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